

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 305630  
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:SVALERGA

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:SVALERGA

-----129556 230008Z /66

O 230020Z DEC 77 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 305630

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT CAIRO 22608 ACTIONSECSTATE INFO TEL AVIV  
DEC22

QUOTE S E C R E T CAIRO 22608

EXDIS (HANDLE AS NODIS)

FROM USDEL CAIRO NO. 0033

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, XF, US

SUBJECT: TALK WITH BEN-ELISSAR - DECEMBER 22

1. IN PRIVATE CHAT ATHERTON AND STERNER HAD WITH BEN-ELISSAR DECEMBER 22, HE COMMENTED BRIEFLY ON IMPRESSIONS HE HAD RECEIVED FROM WEIZMAN ON LATTER'S MEETINGS WITH GAMASY AND SADAT. SAID ATMOSPHERE HAD BEEN CORDIAL BUT WEIZMAN HAD FOUND DISCUSSIONS "DIFFICULT." HE LEFT,

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ACCORDING TO BEN-ELISSAR, FEELING THAT THERE HAD BEEN LESS FLEXIBILITY IN EGYPTIAN POSITION THAN HE HAD SUPPOSED, PARTICULARLY AFTER SECOND MEETING WITH SADAT.

2. IN SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVE HOLTZMAN, BEN-ELISSAR SAID WEIZMAN HAD FOUND SADAT'S POSITION

"HARD, VERY HARD." HE SAID THAT WEIZMAN, AS RESULT OF CONVERSATION WITH SADAT, WAS "WORRIED" ABOUT OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS. HE ADMITTED THAT, FOLLOWING HIS BRIEFING FROM WEIZMAN, HE, TOO, WAS SOMEWHAT CONCERNED. NEVERTHELESS, BEN-ELISSAR CONCLUDED TWO SIDES HAVE "PASSED THE POINT OF NO RETURN" AND HE THOUGHT SOMETHING WOULD BE WORKED OUT. BEN-ELISSAR SAID HE BELIEVED CRUCIAL ISSUE IS WHETHER SADAT RECOGNIZES THE LIMIT BEYOND WHICH ISRAEL CANNOT GO. HE IDENTIFIED ONE LIMIT AS ESTABLISHMENT OF INDEPENDENT STATE OF PALESTINE. HOWEVER, DESPITE ALL DIFFICULTIES CONFRONTING THE TWO SIDES, HE EXPRESSED OPTIMISM, DERIVED FROM DESTRUCTION OF ENORMOUS PSYCHOLOGICAL BARRIERS WHICH HAD SEPARATED SIDES PREVIOUSLY. EILTS. UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, POLICIES, CAT-B, BRIEFINGS, MEETINGS, PEACE TALKS, NEGOTIATIONS  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Enclosure:** REPEAT OF CAIRO 22608  
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**Subject:** TALK WITH BEN-ELISSAR - DECEMBER 22  
**TAGS:** PGOV, XF, US, EG, IS, (BEN-ELISSAR)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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